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GOP Member Of Panel Wants Casey to Resign

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Rep. William F. Goodling (R-Pa.), a member of the House intelligence committee, yesterday called for the resignation of CIA Director William J. Casey on grounds that Congress no longer has faith in what he says.

In an interview, Goodling said he had told the White House several times that Casey's personality "does not necessarily encourage cooperation and togetherness." I think we need new leadership at the CIA if we are to have a nonpartisan committee," he said. Casey's departure would be "the only way I can see to bring about a better working relationship" between the CIA and Congress.

Goodling, considered a moderate on the intelligence panel, is the first member of the two oversight groups on the Hill to call for Casey's departure since the revelation last month of direct CIA involvement in mining Nicaraguan waters. He said other Republicans agreed with him but probably would not say so publicly.

Casey came under fire last month for mentioning direct CIA involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan waters only once during a 90-minute briefing of the Senate intelligence committee earlier this year. That reference was indirect, to the effect that the harbors "are being mined." Casey subsequently agreed that the committee's complaints were justified.

Members of the Senate panel yesterday reached a tentative agreement with the CIA on ways to deal with committee demands to be kept more fully informed on the secret aspects of the growing United States involvement in Central America.

Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) said the committee was "firm" in telling deputy CIA general counsel Ernest Mayerfield "that we really must have complete disclosure in any way beyond just a response to questions." Chafee said he did not agree with Goodling that Casey was ineffective in dealing with Congress "and that's not the sentiment of the Senate committee," he said.

Committee staff aides said there was general agreement, without votes or formal de-

cisions, that the panel should be told forthrightly "anything the agency thinks worth telling the president and the National Security Council," as one aide said; that the committee should be able to expect information in certain areas without having to ask for it specifically; and that committee staff operations should be restructured to improve internal communication of things individuals have learned. Specific rules will be voted on later, they said.

Chafee said members "shot down" a staff proposal that intelligence community witnesses testify under oath. "If we get to that point we're really in trouble," he said.

In other developments, the White House yesterday affirmed its "full confidence" in U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Thomas R. Pickering, rejecting a call from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) for his resignation.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes denied Helms' assertion that the United States, through Pickering, has tried to boost the presidential candidacy of moderate former president Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The senator said in a letter Wednesday to the ARENA party of Duarte's chief opponent in the race that "in his actions designed to rig the electoral outcome, Ambassador Pickering is the leader of the death squads against democracy."

A reply to Helms is being drafted, Speakes said, adding: "The president has full confidence in the ambassador."

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg repeated that the administration has "been totally neutral as to the

presidential candidates. That is a choice for Salvadoran voters to make."

Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) was among several senators who defended Pickering yesterday. Baker called him "a first-rate Foreign Service officer," and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) said there was "no substance" to Helms' charges. He said Pickering is "an absolutely superb professional diplomat, who is carrying out the president's and the Congress' policy."

In a related action, House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.) called on President Reagan to explain that policy more fully to the public in a nationwide television speech.

"There's a gross misunderstanding of what it's all about," Michel told a Chamber of Commerce breakfast here. "There's no constituency out there basically for foreign aid to Central America," he said.

The foreign aid issue will come to the floor of the House next week under a Rules Committee decision yesterday giving Congress three options on aid to El Salvador in the 1985 budget.

One option would continue funding at current levels of \$618 million if there is a presidential finding of "progress" in El Salvador in human rights and other areas, and would provide an added \$145 million if death squad activity ends and negotiations with leftist guerrillas begin.

A second alternative would block all aid until Congress finds that the changes have occurred, while the third, favored by the administration, would provide \$128 million in aid if Reagan certifies progress.